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AUTUMN IN THE CITY: Get ready for autumn leaves and grinning pumpkins 'cause winter is on its way!

OCAP's John Clarke Talks

by Boni

Boni interviewed John Clarke, OCAP
(Ontario Coalition Against Poverty)
provincial organizer, on September 1.

Boni: If there was anything you wanted
people to know about John Clarke as an
organizer, an activist and a person, what
would you want them to know?

John: I think I'm judged according to the
role I play in this organization. I see the
issue as this organization promoting itself,
building a base amongst the people who are
mobilizing. People are assigned to play
certain roles in it and they're judged—I don't
see that I have to answer to anyone out there
in terms of respectability or public image or
anything like that. I answer to the people in
the organization who've elected me to carry
out the position that I hold. They make the
judgments as to whether I'm conducting
myself appropriately or not. If they don't
think so, there are yearly elections where
they can put somebody else in the position I
hold. There are actually two organizers; I'm
one.

Boni: One of the concerns that has come out
in the press is how vulnerable some of the
homeless are that are willing to fight
alongside of you. What are your concerns in
having people that may be vulnerable
working with you?

John: As an organization we do everything
we can to protect people...to back people up.
If that means lawyers, then that's it. If it
means trying to insure that people get fed
when they participate in our actions...if it
means organizing our events in such a way
that we maximize our ability to keep people
safe, we do all those things. At the same
time, we try to be honest as an organization,
with everybody that comes around. That is,
we're not trying to build an organization
with the hundred-people-in-Toronto-most-
ready-to-mix-it-up-with-the-cops.

We try to involve a growing number of
people and I think we are. At the same time,
the risks that exist really flow from the
situation. They're not of our making. It's not
as if we have some homeless people on the
streets, but basically the problem is being
taken care of and we're just a bit weird and
we like to go out and have confrontations.
We're addressing a situation where on one
hand they're abandoning people...denying
them income and housing...and on the other
hand, trying to push people out...with the
police, and the removal of services and all
these things. People are going to get hurt and
they are going to die—that's not a situation
of our creation.

All we're urging people to do is to stand up
and fight back. If you fight back, sometimes
that does involve risks and you need to go
into it with open eyes and understand what's
involved. I think it's infinitely more noble to
go down taking a stand than to go down

trying to crawl away somewhere.

In the end, when we're organizing actions
like the "Safe Park" (in Allen Gardens),
we're not exposing people to any dangers
that they don't face every day, every night in
the parks of Toronto. All that really
happened was that this time, it was out in the
open in one big dose for everybody to see. If
anybody thinks that people aren't being
knocked by police every single night of the
year in Toronto, they're deluding themselves.

Boni: If you were the journalist, what would
you be interested in knowing?

John: The media frequently give us
coverage during actions perceived as
"confrontational" since that is what is
considered "newsworthy". We use that to our
advantage—we're not naive, we understand
that kind of splash. Even if it's negative, it
can promote a very wide knowledge of what
we're doing and can make those that we're
challenging know that it happens in a public
arena and increases our power somewhat.

Journalists very, very seldom talk about
what underlies the activity, what the
grievances are, examining those
grievances—that they have validity. The
"Safe Park" for example: The whole issue
was thrown out with whether there were
some extra shelter beds hanging around
somewhere within the system. That was held

Continued on page 4



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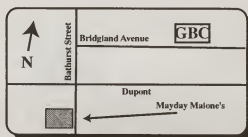
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diaLOG

Couch Potatoes, Rise Up!

by Shareen Barker

These days, we hear a lot of comments that North Americans are too overweight for their own good. McDonalds is happy. Why kill the golden cow? People are happy when they can enjoy their favourite foods, and then suddenly become unhappy when they see their favourite foods hang around them too much, particularly in the torso and leg area. What happened here? I'm sure our ancestors, like homo erectus 500,000 year ago, were in fine shape from hunting and gathering and carving up stone tools and soapstone carvings to present to their new governor-generals. Then came agriculture, and suddenly the newly rich and powerful could flaunt their extra pounds of weight as servants busily hustled about for them. How many ancient paintings and sculptures portray happy, large women and how many portray thin, sad women? Suddenly, we come into the 1960s, and then, gaunt models and stars are our idols, while in poorer parts of the world, people are thin not to be fashionable but because they're starving. How can these contrasting images be? Surely, there must be a happy medium, where people don't have to be extremely thin to either be cool or because of a lack of food, nor do they have to be extremely overweight as a sign of wealth or lack of exercise, barring those who have natural tendencies to be overweight. Perhaps,

one day, Canadian society will be more balanced in its physical appearance and concepts of weight.

It's often said that people are too chained to their computer and desk and don't exercise as much as they should. Children too are having these problems. Well, if this is your malady too, then

there is hope for you. It is true that computers lurk behind many closed doors at George Brown College, but it is also true that when you soar to the

sixth floor of George Brown, you can see many wonderful devices that will make you think twice about those digital chains. Enter the weight room at George Brown, and voila, you are given a chance to redeem your computer-weary eyes at the door for some adrenaline and muscle-stretching glow.

Some of you may be thinking, "You must be joking. I'm not going to any weight room and sit on some sweaty machines with a bunch of hormone-laden

Pilsbury dough boys leering about and tossing weights like Frisbees." Well, there may be some about, but they don't leer although some may seem a bit half-baked. Not really! There are a lot of averagely built people going there. And I used to go once or twice a week, and it really does make you feel better to give

your muscles a bit of a workout, and just to move about, instead of sitting down in one spot as when you read or watch TV. After you do some

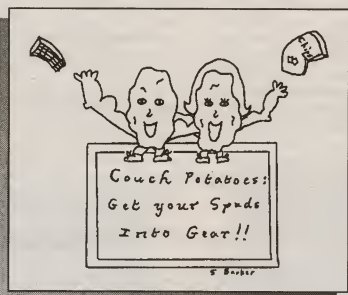
of the weights, it feels like you've just had a relaxing massage and a dip in a hottub. It's kind of a high. But I'm not talking free weights. I'd be walking with my knuckles grazing the sidewalk if that were the case. Just the weight machines. And there are great step machines, walking machines, stationary bicycles and rowing machines, not to mention that new machines have come in this fall. If you like flexed arm hangs, there are bars

for that too. You can get more details in the Sports Corner.

You may think, "Forget it. I can't afford to join." There's a surprise for you, because you've already pre-paid in your student fees. Why waste your money by not going? You just have to fill in a short questionnaire, saying that you won't work out too hard when you're pregnant, especially if you're a guy, and you have to do a blood pressure test to prove that you're alive and kicking, and then, you're in!

You can also use the gym. I had fun shooting hoops and playing badminton. You can do some sports with your friends, or join an organized intramural or varsity team. There are lots of good teams in areas such as basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, ball hockey, badminton, skiing and baseball. Of course, there's no skiing in the gym! There are also recreational programs, such as aerobics, tai chi and tennis. As winter comes rolling around, and you can't rollerblade or bike outside, why not go inside and get that fitness high? There are showers and lockers so you'll leave smelling like a fresh-picked daisy.

If you don't want to be a Twiggy or a wealthy Venus, drop by the fifth floor and go for that sleek Cougar look. You'll feel good and you'll ward off back, neck and joint problems that might come from too much sitting and too much old age. Work out, sit up straight and think and feel young!



the view from here

by Allan Stokell

The Toronto Star headline read: "Teachers' pay linked to students' grades". Yes folks, the Americans, the purveyors of the sick, the wretched and the perverse, have finally outdone themselves. Now teachers' salaries are tied to their students' grades. Finally, in Denver, Colorado, the inmates run the institution. The story goes on to explain that usually teachers receive pay increases based on their number of years of employment. This scheme would substitute these pay increases with "bonuses", based on how well the teachers' students did, based on three standardized tests. "One would use students' scores of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, another would use scores on a standardized test created in the district. The third would somehow test

how much students improve after teachers have taken classes to enhance their skills."

Gee, dare I say it? We've got a similar shit-for-brains scheme going on here in Ontario. It's called KPI, Key Performance Indicators. Our provincial government is rating each college not on how well students perform, but on how much they enjoy the performance.

I say we call a halt to this silly, evil and

counterproductive scheme right now. How do we do it? Simple.

First, let's test every single employee of this college to see how much they are committed to the quality education of students. Those who believe that they are here to serve the college bureaucracy can be offered early retirement. The vast majority who come to work every day driven by the desire to make life better for our students, should get a big raise. Well okay, perhaps a lot of praise in lieu of a big raise.

Next, maybe our students and faculty

should spend some quality time together. You know, some time when instructors aren't facing west and student facing east. This may require some on-campus socialising (to a small extent) with students. If staff are suddenly no longer in a power position, they may be surprised at what students have to say. We need to talk and listen.

This spring, I hope to receive my certificate in Teaching and Training from George Brown College. I have learned a lot since I arrived here three years ago and the fundamental thing I have learned is that everything at the City College is based on the trinity of knowledge, respect and personal growth. It is difficult for a bunch of small-minded Tories at Queens Park to understand the big picture, so we are going to have to explain it for them.

Just how we do that, we should explore another time.



Spotlight on OCAP

Name Of Organization: Ontario Coalition Against Poverty aka OCAP
Address: 249 Sherbourne Street
 Toronto, Ontario
Telephone Number: (416) 925-6939

OCAP was founded in November, 1990 in response to the Thompson Report. The Coalition originally comprised of unions, churches, unions of unemployed workers, and poverty activists. It developed from a Queen's Park caucus of the NDP. Unions now financially support 70-80% of OCAP's efforts. It is not a counselling agency but an advocacy coalition committed to upholding the rights of the poor. Their list of demands includes:

- An immediate end to targeted policing
- 500 downtown shelter beds
- A Charter of Rights for hostel users to end arbitrary barrings
- Welfare revision

Although there is usually consensus of members, when there is disagreement on policy or action, a vote is taken. There are yearly elections of official positions within OCAP.

OCAP is best known for its confrontational tactics against the government regarding housing, welfare issues, shelters, gentrification and targeted policing. OCAP is the best-known of the radical anti-poverty groups in Toronto.

Critics of OCAP's methodology—including much of the media—contend that OCAP is too confrontational and prone to violent altercations with the police, that members do not co-operate with other agencies consistently, that OCAP's tactics do not produce concrete results for the disenfranchised and that OCAP uses vulnerable street people for political gain.

It must be said that OCAP is a necessity in the war on poverty. They are the front-line soldiers, not the background diplomats. In essence, OCAP provides a much-needed service to the disenfranchised. OCAP allows them to voice alternative opinions, alleviates isolation with collective action, and empowers its members by political consciousness raising. By using active tactics as opposed to peaceful protest methodology, OCAP allows other anti-poverty organizations to appear moderate—a necessary alternative in a diverse society.

Bluntly, OCAP typifies the philosophy from the Movie Network, "We're mad as hell and we're not gonna take it anymore!"

Mon, Oct. 18, 1 p.m. Get Psychic at St. James in the lounge, and from 1-6 p.m. check out The Zone at St. James!

Tues, Oct. 19, 1 p.m. Get Psychic one mo. time at Casa Loma in the lounge and from 1-6 p.m., visit Casa Loma's The Zone!

Continued from page 1

up (by the media). And then the issue was how many of those arrested were homeless as opposed to non-homeless. Things that you can answer quite simply but essentially are irrelevant. Nobody really examined the question of what in fact is happening in terms of social cleansing. We kept using the term, "Social Cleansing" and that it's going on. Sometimes it would be reported.

No journalist ever actually went out and investigated what the police are doing with the exception of Tom Lyons from "Eye" magazine who did a really excellent piece in that regard. Nobody's going out and saying, "These people have established a 'Safe Park'...it's got the mayor up in arms, it's got the police holding high-level meetings with every possible dignitary going, it's become a national issue. These people (OCAP) are making certain allegations about the way the homeless are being treated by the municipal authorities and the police force of Toronto. Perhaps we should maybe send somebody out for a

couple of days to find out if there is any substance to those allegations and do an objective report on what's happening." That, of course, never happened, once. That's a huge shortcoming of the media.

There's a group out of the States called "Up and Out of Poverty". Now, the way they always put it is, "the media cover the plight, but not the fight". I think that has a lot of relevance. They never really examine what's driving that fight. At most, they want to cover the weepy stories about poor Sally and Fred sleeping on a park bench and how bad their lives are. That's all well and good but it doesn't really get to the root causes of what's happening.

Boni: This is your quote, "the job hazards

are bad press and arrests"—how do you and your family cope with that?

John: I don't think I'm facing anything that homeless people are not facing every day of their lives including dangers from the cops. In fact, I think I'm relatively safe compared to most people. I don't think there's anything I have to feel particularly threatened by or particularly noble about. If I'm involved in an action where we go and open up a building for homeless people and the police move in and take us away—I know there's supporters and public attention and sympathetic lawyers ready and willing to try and help us out. Most people who have to break into an empty building to try and stay alive don't have those kinds of protections.

Boni: What drives YOU to work with OCAP?

John: I think I'm like a whole bunch of activists within this organization. I've had my experiences in life with poverty, homelessness and things in my family and whatnot—that's certainly a factor. It seems to me that around OCAP, we've gathered a group of people who either by personal experience—and overwhelmingly it IS personal experience—and through observation of the situation around others, have concluded we live in a society that is incredibly wealthy. There's just an unconscionable amount of poverty and suffering that doesn't need to be and shouldn't be and should be challenged...

It just seems to me just incredibly obvious that the only real happiness in life in a society like this one is to challenge what's going on.

Spotlight on John Clarke

Name: John Clarke
Age: 45
Organization: Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP)
Country of Origin: England



Nationality: Canadian
Job Title: Provincial Organizer
Background: Trade unions, London, Ontario Union of Unemployed Workers

John has worked with OCAP since 1990. He has been involved with poverty issues for 17 years. John states that 80% of Ontarians are at risk of poverty and/or homelessness. He states that we must realize that the average resident of Ontario has more in common with the homeless than we do with the elite.

John exhibits disturbingly intense eye contact during discussions and does not veer away from his political viewpoint regardless of how he is interrogated. In his public persona, he reminds me of a scrappy little terrier willing to voraciously defend his pack against all threatening aggressors—no matter how big or vicious. However, in private conversation he presents himself quietly and modestly.

Perhaps what disturbs the media and the public about John Clarke is that he challenges our sense of what we believe to be true—that we are not inherently privileged. He reminds us that poverty, like any other personal tragedy, can happen to us at anytime if we find ourselves in the wrong set of circumstances.

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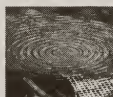
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Shapiro and Wehmeyer: Our New First Year Representatives

The election results are out for the Student Association Board of Directors! Don Shapiro is our new First Year Representative for St. James campus. He won with 88 votes, followed by Udana-Lynne Muldoon with 52 votes, Mark Conroy with 30 votes and Michael Moore with 7 votes. Mark Wehmeyer is our new First Year Representative for the Hospitality campus, winning with 46 votes.

Wed, Oct. 20, 12-4 p.m. at Casa Loma Gymnasium- Work out at the Aerobathon!

Prisoners of Homelessness

by Boni

I imagine being so powerless that you are not allowed to decide: when you want a cup of coffee, when you will use the bathroom or take a shower, when you can watch television or read, what hours you can sleep and how much, and when you will eat. You may be surrounded by violent offenders that terrify you. Sound like living in prison? It isn't—it's a description of the realistic daily grind of living without a permanent address.

I fail to understand why we have shelters with people being treated as if they were prisoners, with social service counsellors as the wardens. The last time I checked, losing one's housing was not considered an indictable offense.

It is a generally accepted psychological assertion that lack of sleep is the primary weapon used by torturers. The rationale behind inducing sleep deprivation is that within a matter of days the victim will be unable to formulate rational thought. Accordingly, decision-making processes will be severely limited. Yet those without housing are continually subjected to circumstances that result in a chronic lack of sleep. Whether sleeping in parks and continually wakened by police intervention or whether constantly aroused by the intrusively noisy chaos of a hostel, the results remain the same. The

average adult requires 7-10 hours of uninterrupted sleep per night to maintain optimal mental fitness. The average street person or hostel dweller is fortunate to engage in five hours of slumber during a singular period. "Unscheduled napping" would be a more accurate description of their actual sleep patterns.

In 1973, professor Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University converted the basement of his department into a replica prison. He dressed some of the students as "guards" and the others as "prisoners". The experiment was scheduled to last two weeks. However, within 24 hours the "guards" became abusive while the "prisoners" became passive and dependent. Even though all participants volunteered for the exercise, within 36 hours the first "prisoners" had to be released due to uncontrolled crying, rages and depression.

The experiment had to be halted within six days.

Yet, the government continues to install the homeless in warehouses guarded by social service workers, as public accusations fly that the poor are "lazy" and "do not want help" when they can't cope with powerlessness and choose to

live on the streets instead. Now, I am not accusing shelter workers of being abusive (although a few are). What I am trying to point out is: there are ramifications from creating the type of psychological traps that result when we, as a society, relegate the

disenfranchised into institutions where they hold no power. Consequently, we cannot expect someone who is physically or mentally ill, is addicted, has a learning disorder or lacks social skills to be able to cope adequately under such circumstances, when a group of well-educated, intelligent, willing

university students could not. We have no way of knowing the original character or mental faculties of a someone who became homeless or how these traits might have been affected by his/her experience of homelessness.

At the point that a human being enters the shelter system, he/she stops being a person and becomes a "client" or "resident". Is it any wonder that homeless people soon become passive and dependent on the system? Then we accuse them of "manipulating the system". What prisoner does not manipulate his/her keepers? There is an assumption that people who are homeless cannot possibly make decisions in his/her best interest. Many shelters/hostels force "life skills" counselling on their wards, whether the person desires such counselling or not. How effective can such counselling possibly be when it is forced upon an unwilling participant? Would it be correct to assume that it would be as effective as the group counselling forced on prisoners. That is to say, maybe a 5% success rate? What about the shelters that force clients to participate in religious rituals if they wish to retain their bed—and receive government money to do it?

Personally, I think I would opt for the street rather than the shelter—weather permitting...



sports corner

by Sabrina Denomme

It appears that everything in the Athletics Department is in order. The number of students participating in available activities is amazing. Membership in the weight room has increased a great deal over last year, particularly due to the new equipment at St.James. Everyone is extremely pleased with the

new improvements. If you haven't yet joined the gym, it isn't too late. Students can sign up at any time.

Currently, intramural indoor soccer and volleyball are running both at the St.James and Casa Loma campuses.

Intramurals are a fun and relaxing way for students to relieve some of the stress from their everyday lives.

Game times depend upon your timetable. Most games take place during

intramural sports, which are ball hockey and badminton.

New this year is "Women's Recreational Volleyball". As you may or may not know, George Brown does not currently have a women's varsity volleyball team. As a result of the interest generated by some women on campus, the Athletics Department is planning to run a recreational team. This provides a chance for the ladies on campus to play. If you are interested in joining this exciting new team, you can attend meetings on Thursdays, from 4-5 at the Casa Loma gymnasium or call Sabrina Denomme at 415-2900, or voicemail box 3119, for more information.

Returning this year is the 11th annual Aerobathon. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year, with all the proceeds going to the Varsity Athletics program.

This event is for everyone: students, staff, and all fitness enthusiasts. For four hours, all participants engage in a number of aerobic activities, ranging from low impact to boxercise. Do not fret though, there are 15-minute rest breaks after every 45 minutes. There are excellent prizes awarded to the top pledge getters and our generous sponsors have tons of draw prizes for almost everyone who participates. The event takes place on Wednesday, October 20, from 12:00 to

4:00 p.m. at the Casa Loma Gymnasium. Pledge sheets may be picked up at the Athletic office on your campus.

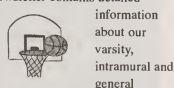
If you are thinking about joining the aerobathon but are concerned about being out of shape, why not join aerobics every Monday and Wednesday from 4-5?

Participation is growing every class and new students are always welcome. Class takes place in the St. James Gymnasium. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!**

If dancing and cheering is your game, then GBC has got the perfect team for you. The Cheer/Dance team is currently holding tryouts for the 1999/2000 season. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Sabrina Denomme at 415-2900, voice mail 3119.

For more information regarding the varsity teams at GBC, please pick up the October issue of *Sports Update*.

This newsletter contains detailed



information about our varsity, intramural and general happenings within the department. Finally, if you just want to support the Huskies in their quest for victory, then feel free to attend any of the following games:

Women's Basketball: (all home games)
November 10, vs. Seneca, 6:00 p.m.
November 12, vs. Niagara, 6:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball: (all home games)
November 3, vs. U or T, 7:30 p.m.
November 5, vs. Point Pk., 6:30 p.m.
November 10, vs. Seneca, 8:00 p.m.
November 12, vs. Alumni, 8:30 p.m.
Men's Volleyball: (all home games)
October 27, vs. Loyaltat, 6:00 p.m.
November 6, vs. Colleges, 9:00 p.m.
November 13, vs. Nipissing, 1:00 p.m.

URGENT NOTICE To All Students Planning to Travel During Christmas



Owing to the Millennium New Year, reservations for air travel are heavier than normal. All students are therefore urged to book their Student Class™ airfares now to avoid disappointment later. Student Class™ airfares, between

Canadian cities, are available exclusively from Travel CUTS, Canada's national student travel bureau.

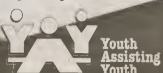
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The Haunting

by Allan Stokell

Several years ago, a friend and I were planning a trip to Europe. This was Mark's first trip and he was very excited. Before he left Canada, a friend who purported to have psychic powers had telephoned to tell Mark of a dream she had.

In the dream, Mark was visiting a castle and it wasn't just any castle. It was one still inhabited by a family. It seems he had just rolled in and had been invited for supper. Not only that, he had seen a ghost. This came as a surprise to me as usually a couple of Canadian tourists don't get invited to dinner by people who live in castles. I had a bit of trouble with the ghost thing too.

Soon the time arrived and we took off on our trip. Most of it was pleasant, but uneventful.

Towards the second week of our vacation we had got into the habit of "following our noses" down narrow rural roads, and stopping at crossroads to guess which direction we would go next.

This worked very well, as there was no shortage of historic properties and castles. One day while we were in the south of England, we discovered one of these small castles with the drawbridge down. Without hesitating, we drove across the moat and through the wall, into the castle grounds. Once inside, we stopped and got out of the car to have a look. There was no ticket booth. There was no car park. It looked like we were on private property.

As I was about to suggest we leave, we spied a man, walking briskly towards us, waving his stick in the air. "Oops," I said. "Let's get out of here!" said Mark.

By the time the decision was made to leave, the man was close enough to us to shout, "This is a private residence." "Sorry, we made a wrong turn," I answered. By now the man was on us. He looked at us quite bemused. "You're here from Toronto," he said.

This brought a smile to Mark's face and puzzlement to mine. "How could you possibly know that?" I inquired. "Your accent, of course," came the reply. "I used to work in Toronto."

As you could imagine, this could become a very long story. Let me just tell you that

we made fast friends with the man with the stick. The castle was one purchased by American publishing magnate Randolph Hurst in the 1920s. Like most Americans, he had dreamed of living in a castle, but soon discovered that castles were cold, dark, damp places. His answer was to add

We did not see a ghost that day. The next day we had an appointment to have dinner with some old relatives of mine who had retired to Devon and had taken part share in a small private hotel.

We were to meet at the dining room. We left our bed and breakfast lodgings and

contentedly. Within a few minutes, Mark and I were separated. We did not see each other for about twenty minutes. When we found each other, Mark looked very pale. "What ever is the matter?" I enquired. "I've seen one!" he spouted. "I've seen my ghost!" Well, I didn't believe it. I had spent two weeks with Mark, never being away from him for more than five minutes. We'd slept in the same rooms at B&Bs, and gone everywhere together. How could it be that when we were apart for the first time that he had seen a ghost? From my experience, when you want to hear ghost stories you head for a pub. Sure enough, a few metres up the road was one of those country pubs you see in the Tourist Board ads. Thatched roof, beamed ceiling, the works. We entered and ordered a pint. As I paid, I asked the landlord, "Does anyone come in saying they've seen a ghost at the castle?" "All the time, mate," was the reply.

"Lady in blue, on the second floor of the manor house," Mark volunteered. "Sorry, mate. It's always some bloke looking like a devil near the dungeon," came the reply.

Well, that closed it for me. He had invented his ghost and wasn't even smart enough to agree with the locals' description. Much of the trip down the coast to dinner was in silence.

Mark was not silent during our meal. He embarrassed me my taking over the dinner conversation and talking about his ghost. Dr. Bean, my aging relative, would have nothing of it. His wife however, a local girl, listened supportively. In her youth she had seen a ghost too and it had made a major impact on her life.

We retired back to the Beans' house in the country for port and cigars in the study. Mrs. Bean made herself busy looking through volumes in her bookcases. After Dr. Bean had poured the second port she found it. A book entitled "Ghosts of Devon", published in 1931. Under Barry Pomeroy Castle it read, "Common sightings; small animal-like figure near dungeon. Uncommon sighting; lady in blue, second story of Tutor house."

Mark really had seen his ghost.



central heating. Later, when he lost interest in Britain, the castle became a school as it remains today. We had arrived during a school break. Our new friend was one of the masters, or teachers at the school. He lived in an apartment that hugged the exterior walls of the castle. After a look around, he invited us to dinner.

During the meal Mark brought up the story of his friend's dream. Much to our surprise, we were told that in fact there were no fewer than three ghosts in the castle. With some prompting, a key was obtained from the custodian and we took off, flashlights in hand.

slowly made our way to Torquay, the site of the hotel. Down some nameless country road we found yet another castle. This one had been deserted long ago, and the land owner allowed cattle to graze freely in the ruins. We climbed over the fence and entered the grounds. "Barry Pomeroy Castle" the National Trust sign read.

What happened next has been the subject of a great deal of contention between my friends and I for many years. The ruins were extremely wild. Pieces of wall twenty feet high sat where they had fallen. Wild bushes and thorns from years of neglect covered almost everything. Cows grazed

Breakfast with Kevin Spacey

He and I are moving up in the world, my friends. Our names have become synonymous with high-quality reviewing and as such, we received tickets to the Toronto Film Festival, which took place in mid-September. We saw the newest Kevin Spacey movie, "American Beauty". Not only were the tickets comp, we had the good fortune of attending a Q & A session with Kevin, director Sam Mendes and its producers. Unfortunately, I didn't get to ask Kevin the burning question that was on my mind - "How do you think this film compares with, say, "Saturday Night Fever"? Nooooo! People wanted to ask him about his motivation, his favorite moment, did he really have to work out, etc. I will say this though, he is a very gracious individual and seems really nice

from about 50 rows away. But we will stop bragging for the moment and let you know what we thought of it.

She said: In the many years that I have resided in Toronto, known to many as "Hollywood North", I have never worked up a sufficient amount of gumption to purchase film festival tickets. The process seems too long and complex for someone of my limited energy. But when tickets to "American Beauty" fall in my lap, I start working out so that I can actually drag

myself to the theatre. The only drawback was that this movie started at 9:00 a.m.! And on a Sunday morning! Some

organizer was getting their cheap thrills with this one.

What do I think of "American Beauty", you may ask? It was worth all those Boost bars and coffee I had and then some. Kevin Spacey plays the rather lackluster

Lester Burnham, who is married to a joyless, career obsessed woman (played brilliantly by Annette Bening). His life

seems to be progressing slowly down the boredom trail until he comes face to face with beauty, in the form of his daughter's best friend, Angela (played by Mena Suvari).

As you can imagine, falling in lust with a teenage girl does not do wonders for the ole marriage...or your life in general for that matter. Lester subsequently quits his job, blackmails his boss, bulks up and catches his wife in an affair with the guy from "Gremlins". If you think that this subject matter has been done before, you are right. To a degree. There are a lot of plot twists but mum's the word. You have to see it for yourself. And do!!

He said: Nothing. He is on vacation. He "forgot" to write a review so, in my mind, his opinion doesn't count!



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Hey, Torri,
Got a few questions here.
1) In a past life, was your last name Affair?
2) What is better: Spit or Swallow?
3) Can champagne baths cause vaginal irritation?
4) What are your suggestions as the best "toys" currently on the market? Which do you use?

Thanks, hon,

Wendy

Dear Wendy,

Thanks for getting straight to the point. I like that.

1. no
2. spit—I've got a bad stomach that won't tolerate ejaculate. But, if you can bear the sensation of that viscous substance sliding down your throat like a loogie and your tummy doesn't object, then give the swallow a chance. For some reason, men can tend to feel rejected by the spit. It messes with their concept of intimacy.
3. I have done a reasonable amount of research and been unable to find a definitive medical answer. The list of substances that are warned against as vaginal irritants on various websites include: bubble bath, harsh soaps, feminine hygiene sprays, douches,

deodorant tampons, adult or baby wipes or towelettes, perfumed toilet paper and synthetic fabrics (when worn for a long period of time). This list is not exhaustive and it doesn't include champagne but this could be an oversight.

Now, I don't like giving incomplete answers, so I asked a few friends. Of the four canvassed, one admitted to participating in a champagne bath. She said that it left her really sticky (she doesn't think this is good) and a bit dry. Let's face it, alcohol dries skin. Now, everyone knows that the natural enemy of healthy genitalia is generally accepted to be dampness but, that doesn't mean that dry vaginal skin doesn't crack, itch and hurt like hell. Consider your options, use a good moisturizer designed for the vaginal area, and remember that champagne that has been bathed in is just expensive bath water complete with dead skin, bodily secretions, and random hair. Don't drink.

4. Again, I did some research on the internet, visited my local naughty adult store, reviewed my own collection and came up with a few ideas. You can also order catalogues by mail or on the internet.

torrid love



torridlove@hotmail.com

Any way, here's a good starter item: Eve of Ask Eve (www.evesplace.com) recommends starting out with the Exploriter Kit. It includes a noise free vibrator with several attachments that are sure to please in many ways.

As for me, Wendy, I'm a fan of the L'il Bunny. Look around for it. It'll hop right into your heart as toy of choice.

Dear Torri,

When "Camilla" and I were madly in love, I took a series of photographs of her nude. Most of them were quite tasteful and I even displayed one of them. I got rid of it when I started dating "Ethel" because I thought it might make her uncomfortable. Camilla has a very attractive body and most other women can't compete with her in that area, including Ethel. That was the instant attraction to Camilla, but later I found she faked her orgasms and was generally a pain to live with.

The problem is that Camilla is now sending me photos taken by her current

beau. They are much more sexually explicit than the ones I took, and I have to confess I find them erotic. I've been keeping them and recently Ethel found them. Now she thinks I'm having it on again with Camilla. What should I do? I want to stay with Ethel because she is smarter, more interesting and much better at sex than Camilla. Trouble is, Ethel has moved on.

Stuck on Eastern Ave.

Dear Stuck,

"Ethel" has moved on and so should you. There's a huge difference between using anonymous pornography to get off and porno with an extremely familiar model. Who could blame Ethel for being upset that you were still using your ex-girlfriend to get stimulated even if you weren't fooling around with her?

You were given a brain to think with and a penis to shag with—try using them that way instead of thinking with your little pal.

If Ethel was smarter, more interesting and sexually stimulating then why did you even tempt fate by keeping the photos? It's time to lay in the bed you've made.

Tell Camilla to get lost and send her photos back to the "photographer" in question. See what he thinks about it!

Naturist Club Meetings

by the founder of Hanlan's Beach Naturists

WHEN: Meetings start at 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM on the third Friday of October and November (October 15 and November 19)
LOCATION: McCormack Pool and Community Centre
SUPERVISOR: Hanlan's Beach Naturist Founder
FIRST CLASS: For WOMEN only (If 2 women lifeguards are not available, this swim will be for all students. Phone 416-

410-6333 on Friday night, Option 5, Latest News...
to confirm the swim night).
SECOND CLASS: For mixed co-ed groups of 2 or more students. (Men require 1 or more women escorts and women require 1 or more men escorts.) Many students have probably not heard of this opportunity, so please tell others about these swim nights.
COST: \$6 per student (ID Card required). Charge will be less if there are more than 10 students.
Prerequisites: You are a person who wants to try swimming nude with others in a non-sexual environment.

PURPOSE:
1. To introduce you to the concepts of naturism which includes showing respect for others.
2. To learn about how relaxing and enjoyable it is to socialize, swim or play volleyball in the nude.
3. Understand about "body acceptance". This means that you should not think about judging anyone based on body shape. Accept people as they are.
4. Body shame does not exist for you in a free environment.
5. You are responsible for maintaining a non-sexual environment.
6. Take responsibility to make sure everyone is enjoying themselves. Talk to

as many people as you can without avoiding anyone. Introduce yourself—don't wait for someone to come to you.
7. Do not ask people for dates until you know them. Don't "hit" on anyone.
8. You may discuss naturist activities but keep the identities of others absolutely confidential. Let each student decide for themselves who they wish to talk to about their experiences.
9. After the swim, don't be put on the defensive. Always be positive to show you are confident in yourself and don't mind questions. After all, most people are just very curious. Answer their questions honestly, once you have some naturist experience. You can't give advice about naturism unless you have some experience.
10. Naturism is not a religion. It is just another way to relax in your leisure time.
11. It is quite easy to make friends since you have at least one thing in common—appreciation of the benefits of the naturist lifestyle and a new found confidence in yourself.
12. Another good way to meet others is pre or post get-togethers at nearby restaurants. Check the GBN message line Option 7...Swim Sign-in at 416-410-6333.

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Check out Sega's Newest Video Console and Games!

by Sharen Barker

do you like racing around on the Grand Prix track, zooming and careening around mountain paths and across oceans, and fighting zombies? If you do, you'll be happy to know that Sega has just launched a new video game console system, called Dreamcast. It was a very successful launch, as almost \$98 million US or \$145 million Canadian of merchandise was sold in the first 24 hours of its appearance. This beat the record that *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* held with \$28 million US from its first day in theatres.

According to Roisin McGlynn, an associate at Temple Scott Associates, a Toronto public relations firm for Sega, hundreds of people lined up on the launch night, September 8, in Fairview Mall. 300,000 units were already pre-sold throughout North America. People were lining up, eager and excited to purchase their first Dreamcast, which has 18 video game titles to date.

Dreamcast has a powerful 200 Mhz Hitachi SH-4 CPU, which gives it 15 times the power of a Sony PlayStation and four times the graphics processing power of the fastest Pentium II processor. It also has Internet capabilities, with a built-in 56k modem. You can chat, e-mail or surf the Sega Dreamcast Network, which is an online gaming portal that you can use only through Dreamcast. As well, full online gaming capabilities will come out next year.

This console has a NEC PowerVR 2DC 3D graphics chip, which is the most powerful 3D

technology on a video console you've seen yet. It also houses a 128-bit architecture, with a memory of 26 megabytes. If you want to swap games with people or store game information, Dreamcast will let you do that with a peripheral hand-held gaming device, called a Visual Memory Unit or VMU. You can plan your game moves and hide them from your opponents on the VMU.

Recently, Roisin McGlynn gave me the opportunity to sample some of these new games, and I could certainly see the difference between older games and Dreamcast's powerful and realistic 3D

graphics. I'm a casual video game player. I sometimes play video games at home or at Mississauga's Sega Playdium. These new games seem just like the arcade versions, and you can play them at home. I tried a racing game, *CART*, which was very realistic, with sensitive steering action and one setting was actually at the Exhibition grounds. You could even see the SkyDome in the background! McGlynn said that with Dreamcast's artificial intelligence, there are many options. For example, if the setting is rainy, the track will be slicker and it will be harder to turn the wheels.

Sonic the Hedgehog is out for the first time in 3D. McGlynn said Sonic is a big hit with kids and I can see why. It was a lot of fun, with loop-the-loop paths and jump pads, and sections where you could jetski across the waves and go underwater. At home, I have a similar 2D game, but when it's in 3D, it seems so much more interactive and realistic, as if you're actually inside the game. The colours are amazing, bright and vivid. The

ocean seems particularly real, as if you were in a tropical ocean. McGlynn says that there are many game levels, with individual environments for each one. The VMU also offers mini-games within the Sonic game, which you can upload to the Internet if you like.

Another game I saw was a football game, called NFL2K. I know nothing about football, but McGlynn said that even if you know nothing, you can pick the game up easily because the game can explain the moves and strategies. There's a running commentary like a real game, and the players are extraordinarily realistic in the way they walk and run. There's even variations in the players' personalities. You can take one football team and play through the season against different teams in the league.

I took a whirl at a boxing game called *Ready 2 Rumble Boxing* where you could choose your character from 16 boxers. On the VMU, you can track your boxer's health, the punches you've thrown and your punch accuracy. Again, the graphics were amazing.

Among the 18 new titles, there are several racing car games, an aerial stunt team game, an air force strategic game, a zombie-fighting haunted house game, a jetboat game, several fighting games, a surfing hover board-type game, and some games for children where characters can belly surf and ice-walk. McGlynn said that a very popular game is *Soul Caliber*, a weapon-based fighter game with fantastic graphics, that was rated 10 out of 10 in Japan. Coming out later is a fishing

game, "Sega Bass Fishing" where you can use a peripheral fishing rod and feel the tension in the line, and it's just like really fishing!

These games are a lot of fun, and each game is in the price range of \$59.99 to \$69.99. The Dreamcast console itself has a suggested price of \$299. If you want to check out Sega's web page, it's located at www.sega.com.

I sometimes played Sega games when I was in Japan. However, not only do they have your typical arcade games in Japan, but there is also a gambling section where you can gamble using Sega coins. You can't win real money but you can win Sega money. They had poker, slot machines, mahjong, bingo, blackjack, horse races, "pachinko", a pinball

type of game, roulette, and various other games. The blackjack game was interesting because there was a large life-size electronic woman serving as the hostess, and chatting to the patrons! The horse race

was also fun to watch, as you could see little plastic riders and horses racing around a track with an electronic scoreboard.

I liked to occasionally play these gambling games with my friends, so I was a little disappointed when I came back to Canada, and there were none of these games! But, perhaps someday at an arcade near you, you too will be able to go to the horse races and pick up some Sega bucks! You won't even need a yen for it! But for the present, if you get a chance, try out some Dreamcast games and have a nice time!



Sonic



CART racing

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